WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A1

1. An apparatus, comprising:

a first telemetry coil, where the first telemetry coil includes a predetermined outer dimension sufficient to allow communication between the first telemetry coil, when positioned at a posterior location on a torso, and an implanted medical device disposed subcutaneously on an anterior location of the torso; and

a communication lead having a first end and a second end, where the first end is communicatively coupled to the first telemetry coil and the second end adapted to be communicatively coupled to a medical device programmer.

Sub B3

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further including a flexible housing, where the flexible housing encases the first telemetry coil.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, where the first telemetry coil includes one or more loops of a conductive wire.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, where the one or more loops of the conductive wire are concentrically wound in a common plane.

5. The apparatus of claim 3, where the conductive wire is wound around a core, where the core is constructed of a magnetically permeable material that enhances flux density of the apparatus.

Sub B4

6. The apparatus of claim 5, where the magnetically permeable material is made of a ferrite (iron-oxide) powder.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, where the predetermined outer dimension is a diameter in a range of fifteen (15) to forty-six (46) centimeters.

Sub C3

8. The apparatus of claim 1, where the flexible housing is conformable to an irregular surface.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, where the flexible housing is constructed of an insulating material.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, where the flexible housing is constructed of a material, which retains a formed shape.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, where the material is polyimide.

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12. The apparatus of claim 1, including a second telemetry coil, where the second telemetry coil is communicatively coupled to the first end communication lead.

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13. The apparatus of claim 12, further including a flexible housing, where the first telemetry coil and the second telemetry coil are concentrically positioned in a common plane within the flexible housing.

14. The apparatus of claim 1, further including a padded cover disposed over the flexible housing.

Sub A2

15. A telemetry coil, comprising: one or more loops of a conductive wire that define a predetermined outer dimension sufficient to allow communication between the first telemetry coil positioned at a posterior location on a torso and an implanted medical device disposed subcutaneously on an anterior location of the torso, where the predetermined outer dimension is a diameter in a range of fifteen (15) to forty-six (46) centimeters, where the one or more loops of a conductive wire wound substantially in a common plane and concentrically around a central core, where the central core includes a magnetically permeable material, and where the loops are

positioned around the central core to form a substantially constant gap between adjacent loops, where the coil includes an outside diameter ranging between fifteen (15) to forty-six (46) centimeters.

16. A method, comprising:

positioning a first telemetry coil at a posterior location of a torso;

establishing a communication link between the first telemetry coil and an implanted medical device positioned subcutaneously on an anterior location of the torso; and

programming the implanted medical device using an external programmer over the communication link.

17. The method of claim 16, including supporting the first telemetry coil on a structure adapted to support at least a portion of the torso.

18. The method of claim 17, including positioning a second telemetry coil at the posterior location of the torso, and establishing the communication link between the first telemetry coil and the second telemetry coil with the implanted medical device positioned subcutaneously on the anterior location of the torso.

19. A method, comprising:

coupling a communication lead to a first telemetry coil, where the communication lead includes a first end coupled to the first telemetry coil and the second end adapted to be coupled to an external programmer, and

encasing the first telemetry coil in a flexible housing.

20. The method of claim 19, further including the step of placing a padded cover over the flexible housing.

21. The method of claim 19, including producing the first telemetry coil by winding one or more loops of a conductive wire concentrically in a common plane around a core.

22. The method of claim 19, including coupling the communication lead to a second telemetry coil, where the first end of the communication lead is coupled to the second telemetry coil; and

encasing the first telemetry coil and the second telemetry coil in the flexible housing.

add
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